

Service Date: January 21, 1987

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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IN THE MATTER Of The Application )	UTILITY DIVISION
Of GREAT FALLS GAS COMPANY, For A )	DOCKET NO. 86.12.75
Commercial Market Retention Rate. )	INTERIM ORDER NO. 5253
_____)	

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On December 24, 1986, Great Falls Gas Company (GFG) filed with the Montana Public Service Commission (MPSC) an application for authority to implement a Commercial Market Retention (CMR) Rate. This rate is applicable only to retaining the Montana Deaconess Medical Center as a gas customer.

2. As filed, the CMR rate features a 15 cent per MCF discount to the rate charged the Firm Class (currently \$3.9633/MCF) for the first 50,000 MCFs, and a 10 percent markup to GFG's cost of gas for all additional sales.

3. GFG proposes to absorb the associated revenue shortfall until it files a new general rate case.

4. The Commission approves, on an interim basis, GFG's CMR rate filing. It is understood, however, that the 15 cent discount is to the "effective" tariff rate, and all volumes are on a monthly basis.

5. In whatever forum is used to finally consider the CMR rate filing, GFG is admonished that, the MPSC intends to examine in detail any related cost and revenue implications.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Applicant, Great Falls Gas Co., furnishes gas service to consumers in Montana, and is a "public utility" subject to the regulatory jurisdiction of the Montana Public Service Commission. Section 69-3-101, MCA.

2. The Montana Public Service Commission properly exercises jurisdiction over the Applicant's Montana operations pursuant to Title 69, Chapter 3, MCA.

3. The Commission may, in its discretion, temporarily approve increases or decreases pending a hearing or final decision. Section 69-3-304, MCA.

#### ORDER

THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION HEREBY ORDERS THAT:

1. The Commission approves, on an interim basis, GFG's Commercial Market Retention Rate filing conditional upon a mutual agreement and understanding of the Findings of Fact entered by the Commission in this Interim Order.

2. Nothing in this interim order precludes the Commission from denying in its final order, after reviewing the entire record in this docket, final approval of the proposed rate.

3. The interim approval granted in this order is effective January 19, 1987.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION at Helena, Montana this 12th day of January, 1987 by a 5 - 0 vote.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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CLYDE JARVIS, Chairman

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HOWARD L. ELLIS, Commissioner

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TOM MONAHAN, Commissioner

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DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

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JOHN B. DRISCOLL, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Ann Purcell  
Acting Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: Any interested party may request the Commission to reconsider this decision. A motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See 38.2.4806, ARM.